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72 Sub 621
Cap 3
(Supp)

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Animal Industry

March 11, 1947

***** SUPPLEMENT NO. 2 *****

TO

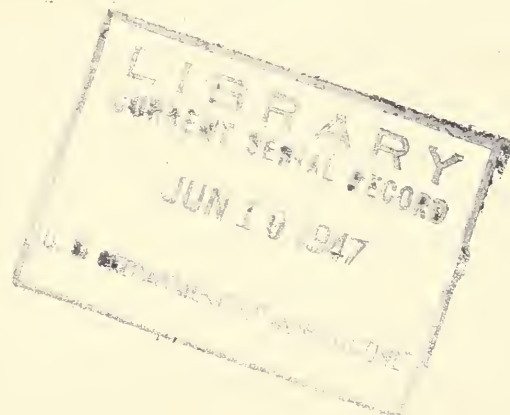
SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS

in the

MEXICAN OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

With Supplementary Information
on United States Cooperation
in Control Measures

(Prepared January 28, 1947)



Note: This report has been prepared on the basis of best available information but is subject to revision and amplification as new facts are obtained. Additional supplemental reports will be issued as significant developments occur.

President Truman Signs Bill To Help Mexico
Suppress Foot-and-Mouth Outbreak

On February 28 in the presence of a group of congressional and agricultural officials, President Truman signed a bill enacted by Congress to aid Mexico in suppressing its outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. Introduced February 10 in the House of Representatives by Hon. George W. Gillie, of Indiana, the bill, as finally passed, carries the title: "A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the Government of Mexico in the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest." Following, in brief, are several important provisions of this new legislation.

It authorizes such United States action when the Secretary of Agriculture deems it necessary to protect the livestock and related industries of the United States.

The Government of Mexico is responsible for the authority necessary to carry out the operations or measures on all lands and properties in Mexico.

Arrangements for the cooperation authorized are to be made through, and in consultation with, the Secretary of State..

Every 30 days after the enactment of the act, the Secretary of Agriculture is to make a report, to Congress, of activities conducted.

Commission Recommends Procedures
for Eradication Campaign

Promptly after approval by President Truman, on February 28, of the legislation authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to aid Mexico in suppressing foot-and-mouth disease, the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations invited Mexican officials to discuss plans for the conduct of the campaign. Such discussions took place in Washington, D. C. March 5 and 6. Participants included members of the Mexican-United States Agricultural Commission and several other officials of the two countries.

The members of the Mexican Section of the Commission were the Under Secretary of Agriculture in charge of Livestock. Licenciado Oscar Flores; Dr. Fernando Camargo, Chief of the Division of Scientific Investigations; Dr. Jose Figueroa, member of the National Commission for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and Sr. Ignacio de la Torre, Secretary of the Mexican Section. Members of the United States Section were L. A. Wheeler, Director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations; W. V. Lambert, Administrator, Agricultural Research Administration, Department of Agriculture; J. Barnard Gibbs, Agricultural Attache at the American Embassy in Mexico City, and John A. Hopkins, Secretary of the United States Section.

Other officials participating in the discussion were several members of the Animal Industry Subcommission, including Dr. B. T. Simms, Chief of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry and Dr. S. O. Fladness, assistant chief of that Bureau.

The Commission passed the following formal resolution:

RESOLUTION

CONSIDERING

That the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico and the prevention of its spread into the United States will require vigorous action lasting over a considerable period of time and involving intricate administration and supervisory problems, and the handling of extensive funds, and will often require prompt decision and action under competent direction, the Mexican-United States Agricultural Commission

RECOMMENDS

1. That there be established in Mexico City at the earliest possible date a joint office for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease.

2. That this office be administered by a director and a co-director who shall be jointly responsible for the active direction of the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease, and for the expenditures of funds supplied by the two Governments for that purpose. The director should be a Mexican citizen appointed by the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock Industry. The co-director should be a United States citizen appointed by the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

3. That there be established a joint administrative board for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease to which the director and co-director shall be responsible. This board shall be responsible for the policies and procedures to be followed by the office. The board shall consist of:

Three members appointed by the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock Industry,

Three members appointed by the United States Secretary of Agriculture, and

The director and co-director of the Office.

4. That the Mexican and United States Sections of the administrative board should each arrange for the appointment of an advisory committee consisting of such persons as may be desired.

The Commission considered the question of the financing of the office recommended in the foregoing resolution but deferred a final recommendation on this point pending further consultations with their respective Governments.

The Commission also considered the problem of securing supplies in connection with the control and eradication program now in effect in Mexico and related problems that will result from the campaign. Assurances were given by the United States Section that every possible assistance would be given to the Mexican authorities in locating such equipment and supplies in the United States.

The foregoing resolution is being submitted to high administrative officials of the two governments for formal approval, after which plans for financing the campaign and estimates of its cost will receive consideration.

"Foot-and-Mouth Disease" is Preferred Name

Foot-and-mouth disease rather than hoof-and-mouth disease is the name used by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in referring to this livestock scourge, also known, especially in Europe, as apthous fever. Besides affecting the membranes of the mouth, the infective virus attacks the soft parts of the feet of cloven-footed animals but does not invade the horny hoof tissue. The term foot-and-mouth disease is, therefore more properly descriptive and scientifically accurate. All the Department's publications relating to this malady call it "foot-and mouth disease."

Map Shows Areas Involved in Outbreak

Officials of the Mexican Government have furnished the United States Department of Agriculture with a map of Mexico approximately 4 by 3 feet in size showing, in considerable detail, the areas in which foot-and-mouth disease has appeared. That map together with reports from Dr. A. E. Wardlow, veterinary inspector of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, have provided data for the accompanying smaller map showing the approximate location and extent of the main quarantined area and of two smaller centers of infection. Though the shaded areas represent the general location of infected herds, not all herds within the areas are involved. However they are subject to quarantine restrictions necessary to keep the disease from spreading beyond the boundaries of the quarantined (shaded) areas. Especially in the two small centers outside the main quarantined area, the slaughter of affected herds is going forward in the effort to stamp out the infection. The map represents the approximate situation on Feb. 22 and comparatively little change has occurred since that time.

BASED ON REPORTS RECEIVED BY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

